



ChessKid's Parent Survival Ebook **The Ultimate Guide to Scholastic Chess**



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“The game of chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired or strengthened by it... Life is a kind of Chess, in which we have often points to gain, and competitors or adversaries to contend with.”

Benjamin Franklin

"In life, as in chess, forethought wins."

Charles Buxton

Introduction– The Chess Journey

Is your child entering the world of chess? Are they thinking about playing in a tournament? Are they asking for your help? Let ChessKid guide you in understanding what is important as your child begins to show interest in chess. We list the questions you might ask along the journey, and provide the best answers for you

in easy to understand formats such as articles, videos, checklists and more! Keep this ebook handy as you will refer to it often on your new chess journey.



Articles

- ▶ Is my child even ready or old enough to play chess? Probably. [See this advice by the authors of "Chess Is Child's Play."](#)
- ▶ What do I need for my child to play? Actually only a board with the pieces but [here are more details as your interest in chess grows.](#)
- ▶ How can learning to play chess help in other educational activities? [This article cites research on the educational value of chess.](#)
- ▶ How can ChessKid help? [Learn how to do everything on ChessKid.](#)
- ▶ Is playing chess online safe? Learn about [ChessKid's safety features.](#)
- ▶ Do you know that children who are scouts can earn a chess merit badge? [Learn what scout leaders and parents should know.](#)



Videos

- ▶ What should I and my child know about chess? [Watch this video.](#)
- ▶ How should my child and I get started? [Watching this video](#) can help.
- ▶ How do I monitor my child's online account? [This video explains.](#)
- ▶ If I as the parent don't know how to play, how do I start my child in learning the game? [This article](#) and [this video](#) can help you get started.
- ▶ What is ChessKid and how can ChessKid help? [This article](#) and [video](#) can help a parent understand more.

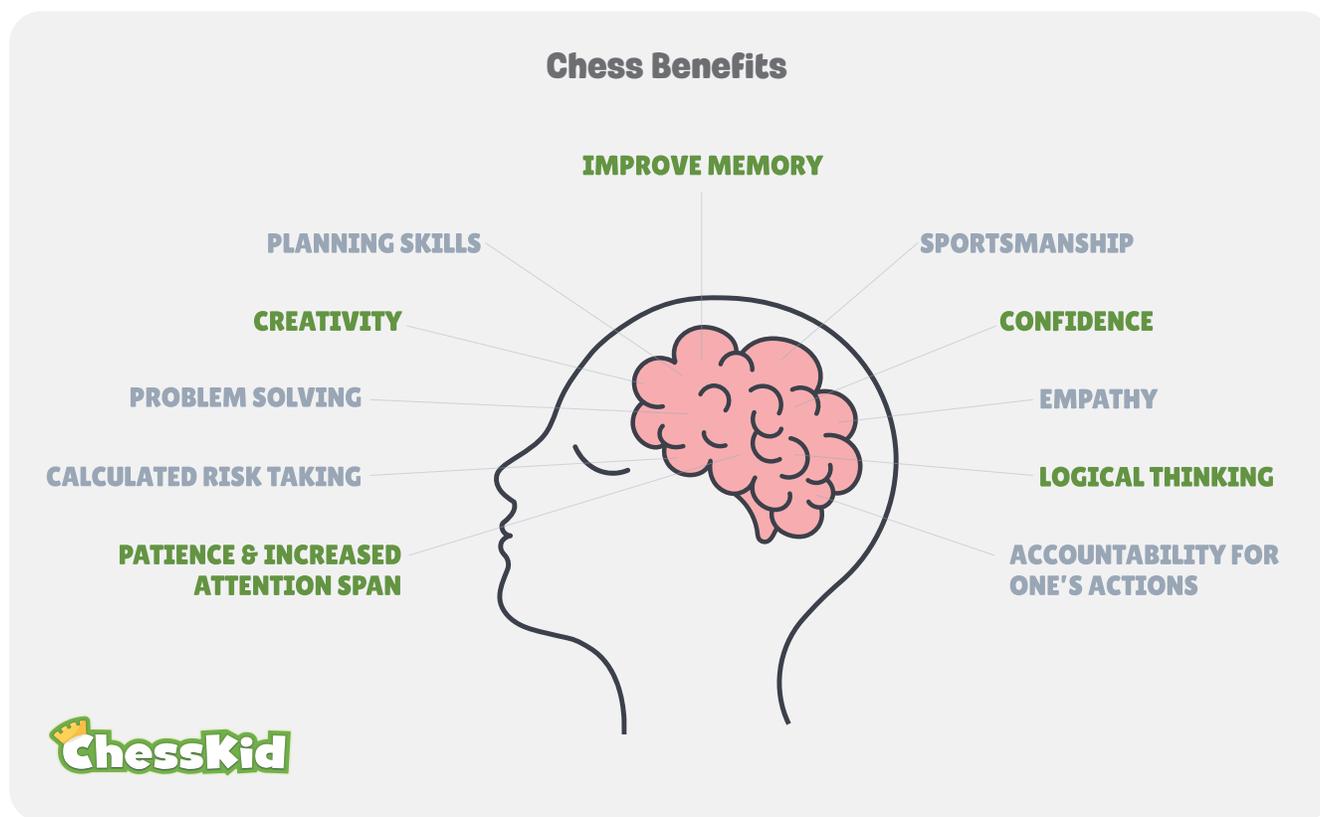
Playing Chess Makes Kids Smarter

"You may learn much more from a game you lose than from a game you win. You will have to lose hundreds of games before becoming a good player."

Jose Raul Capablanca

Research shows that playing one to two hours a week helps kids get better at critical thinking and deductive reasoning. The earlier that kids start, the greater the overall benefits.

See this ChessKid Infographic for all the benefits and read more [here](#).



+ More

How can chess be made even more an adventure than simply playing a game? [Try our new app, ChessKid Adventure.](#) Or [try to beat FunMasterMike.](#)



Learning Chess Methods

"ChessKid makes this a fun experience. It holds your hand through the initial learning phase and takes you through the more advanced planning and strategy."

Beena Chopade, ChessMom

How does a child learn to play chess? Children can learn chess very early, some even as early as two years old! ChessKid recommends it is best to break up the lessons into segments and has other great ways to engage kids through puzzles, lessons and practice! Here are several tips that can help every parent.

Chess can be fun for parents too. Like Wordle? [Introducing Chessle](#) Wordle but for chess openings. The rules are very simple. You have six guesses, and a new Chessle is generated at 12 a.m., Pacific Time every day. Good luck!

[Can chess make you smarter too?](#) Maybe your child isn't the only one who should be learning chess.



Articles

- ▶ Learning chess should be easy and fun! [Read our tips](#) for the beginning steps to playing chess.
- ▶ If my child struggles in staying focused, is learning to play chess even relevant? [Check this article.](#)
- ▶ How can my child learn by losing a game? [Learn from this article.](#)
- ▶ Is a chess coach helpful? Yes. [See the chapter on chess coaching.](#)
- ▶ Are puzzles useful in developing chess skills? [Absolutely.](#)
- ▶ How can playing chess improve socialization skills? [Learn about the benefits](#) of chess clubs and friendships made by playing chess.
- ▶ Plus, [see this compilation of articles](#) about the relationship of chess and other educational goals.



Videos

- ▶ How does a beginner learn to play chess? [Reading this article](#) and [watching this video](#) and [this one](#) can help you get started.
- ▶ How important are videos in learning the game? [Learn more](#) from this article and [this guide to videos](#) on ChessKid.
- ▶ How can lessons help to develop a child's chess skills? Learn from FunMasterMike [with this video.](#)



Role of Chess Clubs

"I have come to the personal conclusion that while all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists."
Marcel Duchamp

Joining a chess club (or two) has several advantages for both the parent and player. Kids learn from each other, and having others at the same skill level can build enthusiasm for playing well. Imagine that your child continues

to develop as a player and plays for a chess club in college. Do you know that ChessKid can help you organize clubs, and your clubs can play for free on ChessKid? To get started, here are some initial ideas every parent should consider:



Articles

- ▶ What are the advantages of joining a chess club? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ Are chess clubs in schools a good idea? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ The 10 Best Chess Cities in the World. [Read more.](#)
- ▶ How do chess clubs help a new player? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ How do I create a club on ChessKid? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ How do I start a chess club at my school? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ Where would my clubs be located on ChessKid? [Read more.](#)
- ▶ How are large groups organized on ChessKid? [Read more.](#)



Playing in Chess Tournaments

As a parent, it can be stressful to think about signing up your child to play in a tournament, particularly a first tournament. Is your child prepared? Although you may be concerned initially, the best way to gain experience as a player is to compete in tournaments. Many scholastic tournaments are held over the board as well as online. Here are 11 tips that all parents should know:



Articles

- 1 How do I [find tournaments on ChessKid](#)? Playing in a tournament on ChessKid is easy.
- 2 How can my child play in the [monthly ChessKid tournaments](#)? Playing is easy. Winning is fun.
- 3 Can my child [practice for an over-the-board tournament](#) by playing online? Absolutely. Each month ChessKid has several special events such as playing against a titled player or competing in online tournaments.
- 4 How does my child [join a live tournament online](#)? It's easy the first time, and the second time it's even easier.
- 5 How do you [play in a fast or slow tournament](#)? The steps are simple.
- 6 How can [puzzle duels](#) prepare a student to play in tournaments? Puzzles sharpen the analytical skills of every player from beginner to advanced.
- 7 Can a parent [host a tournament on ChessKid](#)? Of course, you can.
- 8 How can a parent help a child prepare for a national tournament? Learn from this guide in two parts: A parent guide to nationals [part 1](#) and [part 2](#).
- 9 How should both parents and children [prepare for tournaments](#)?
- 10 What should a player expect when playing in an [over-the-board tournament for the first time](#)?
- 11 What should a new player understand [before entering a tournament](#)?



ChessKid's

Tournament Checklist

For Parents

- Evaluate your child's readiness to participate.
- Determine the best time control for your child.
- See if friends, classmates, club members would also be interested in participating.
- Register with the event and save the date.
- Pack the board, pieces, scorepads, pencil, and chess clock.
- Plan your break activities, meals and snacks (healthy food only), and beverages. (Have water available at the event.)
- Discuss goals for the tournament with your child. Be realistic.
- Emphasize the importance of staying positive throughout the tournament.
- Take comfortable clothes if event is overnight.
- Get a good night's sleep (parent and child).

For Players

- Be at the event and ready early. Be punctual for each game.
- Check the pairing sheet and know what board you are on.
- Put your phone on mute, silence all other devices, and put them safely away.
- Pay attention to announcements from the tournament director.
- Greet your opponent positively before a game begins.
- Use scorepad to record moves.
- Submit result to tournament director when game ends.
- Stay relaxed and confident.
- Keep your scorepads of game results.
- Review your games and study how to improve.
- Take pride in your tournament achievements.
- Check to see how the games affect your rating when results have been recorded. Plan your next event.

"A hard fought game of chess can give a child the equivalent of a month of life lessons."

Coach Victor Lopez

How to Benefit from Chess Coaching

What can a parent do to help a new and inexperienced player? One important step is to consider the importance of chess coaching. Do you know how to find one that would be a good fit for your player? Here are 10 questions you should ask about finding a coach.



Articles

- Q1** What is a chess coach? Are they worth it? [Read answer.](#)
- Q2** What does a chess coach do? [Read answer.](#)
- Q3** When should you get a chess coach? [Read answer.](#)
- Q4** Why are the benefits of using a chess coach? [Read answer.](#)
- Q5** What are key qualities needed in a chess coach? [Read answer.](#)
- Q6** How do you get the right coach? [Read answer.](#)
- Q7** How much do chess coaches cost? [Read answer.](#)
- Q8** How has a chess coach helped a young player? [Read answer.](#)
- Q9** Where can I review profiles of certified chess coaches? [Read answer.](#)
- Q10** When should a private coach be considered? [Read answer.](#)



CASE STUDY

[Read this personal account](#) by ChessKid Brewington Hardaway, who is now a national master, and see how a coach helped to improve his chess skills. When he was only seven years old and in the second grade, he started training with a chess coach. Amazing!

Understanding The Language of Chess

Do you have difficulty “talking chess” with your child? You may already know how to identify chess pieces, set up a board, and make legal moves. However, do you understand the terms used by players during a game? Helping your child to know the language of chess is just as important as knowing how to set up a chessboard. Here are our top tips that will help parents understand the language of chess:

[Take the Global Chess Quiz to see what you already know.](#)



Video

- ▶ [Watch the videos in this ChessKid series on the language of chess.](#)



Articles

- ▶ [Identifying chess pieces:](#) If you say “horse” when pointing to a knight, click here soon and read.
- ▶ [Setting up a chessboard:](#) Children enjoy setting up a chessboard. Make sure that they do it correctly.
- ▶ [Using a chess clock](#) and knowing [chess time controls](#): Tempus fugit, and then some. Slow down. Don't let your child enter a blitz tournament before they understand the principles of the game.
- ▶ [Recording games:](#) Knowing chess notation is indispensable. Learn why.
- ▶ [Recognizing tactics:](#) It's hard to play well unless basic tactics are learned. What are they?
- ▶ [Understanding chess titles:](#) Maybe you are a master, but are you a master of chess?
- ▶ [Speaking with the correct terminology:](#) Don't say “check” if you mean “mate.”
- ▶ [Using the ChessKid glossary:](#) Do you know that ChessKid has its own dictionary?

Conclusion— Prepare for a Great Family Adventure

Although most books end with a conclusion, this ebook ends with a note of encouragement. As a parent, you are invaluable in creating the right approach to any learning experience, particularly one involving chess. Your positive and nurturing encouragement is critical. With the right approach, anything is possible, including grooming a future chess master.

To conclude, let us point you to a few more important resources as you begin your journey into the world of chess.



Articles

- ▶ [More questions that parents often have.](#)
- ▶ [Other questions that kids often ask.](#)
- ▶ [Taking the right approach for teaching chess. Review this one again.](#)
- ▶ [How chess has changed a kid's life.](#)
- ▶ [How chess helps young students early in school.](#)



Inspiring the Future

- ♥ After learning chess online during the pandemic on ChessKid.com and later attending a fundraiser for Ukraine by FunMasterMike, an amazing young girl from The Philippines went a step further. [Read her story here.](#)
- ♥ A Nigerian refugee won the New York State K-3 Championship while in a homeless shelter. Since then, he's become a published author, recently won yet another championship, and now he's officially a National Master and a new ChessKid Bot! [Learn more about Tani here.](#)
- ♥ Keep up-to-date with all the new stories and events by following ChessKid on our social media.

